

Encore

Theatre at Monmouth's season is a delicious mix of 'M's

David A. Sargent / Special to the Sun Journal

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MONMOUTH - Magic, murder and mayhem await audiences all summer long at the Theater at Monmouth.

That's the spine-tingling theme producing artistic director Dawn Adams has chosen for TAM's 46th season at historic Cumston Hall. It all begins Friday, June 26, with an acclaimed stage adaptation of "Turn of the Screw," a classic ghost story based on Henry James's 1897 novella.

The next evening, June 27, TAM presents the first performance of "The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship," TAM's annual family show adapted by Adams from a children's literature classic for young people and the young at heart.

With these two shows, TAM's rotating repertory begins, and following weeks bring additions to the schedule. That allows patrons to catch shows at varying dates through the summer months.

The other shows for the summer of 2015 are “The Winter’s Tale” by William Shakespeare, opening July 9; “Fallen Angels” a comedy by Noël Coward, opening July 16; “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by William Shakespeare, opening July 23; and “The Real Inspector Hound,” a comedy by Tom Stoppard, opening July 30.

TAM’s traditional fall musical will be “Ruddigore, or the Witch’s Curse” by Gilbert and Sullivan. It runs September 17-27.

Adams said TAM’s season of magic, murder and mayhem “will peek into the nature of reality and illusion, poke fun at the foibles and fables of romances young and old, and will prick up the hairs on the back of your neck.”

In “Turn of the Screw,” the season-opener at 7:30 p.m. this coming Friday, A young governess cares for two recently orphaned children in a lonely English manor. She begins to see the specters of the former governess and her lover haunting the children and embarks on a macabre journey to save their souls.

In family show, “The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship,” a czar declares he will marry his daughter to the man who brings him a flying ship. The Fool sets off on an adventure to change his life, and along the way he learns the power of believing in yourself, the value of friendship, and the importance of following your dreams.

Shakespeare’s plays bring tragedy, romance, hilarity and inspiration in “A Winter’s Tale” and there’s plenty of magic and laughter in the bard’s popular comedy, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

In “Fallen Angels,” Coward’s intoxicatingly witty comedy, passions soar, spirits fly, and insults are hurled as the women grapple with fidelity and forbidden fruit.

Feuding theatre critics are central to the plot of “The Real Inspector Hound.” As mists rise about isolated Muldoon Manor, they become dangerously implicated in the lethal activities of an escaped madman.

Casting sessions are held in five different cities, and more than 100 video auditions are needed all to fill the season’s 16 to 30 tracks for actors’ roles, Adams said in a Q-and-A interview on TAM’s Web site.

“Without a doubt, the most difficult part is figuring out how to take the cast of characters in each play and build the tracks that each actor will take on for the summer. In the end, each actor will end up playing three or four roles throughout the summer with at least one major role and some supporting,” she said.

The cast members and production personnel is about 50 percent Maine-based and 50 percent from away.

Ticket prices range from \$20-\$30, and \$10 rush tickets are available for every performance to anyone under 30. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more. For calendar and reservations, contact the TAM Box Office at 933-9999 or visit www.theateratmonmouth.org.